WRL News

Number 205 War Resisters League Mar-Apr. 1978

JOIN THE SPRING DEMONSTRATIONS

There will be a massive public rally on May 27 in San Francisco and New York City near the United Nations, in support of The Special Session of the UN on Disarmament. We strongly urge every WRL members within a thousand miles of Manhattan to spend Memorial Day weekend in New York City and to take part in this historic rally. Those on the West Coast are similarly urged to get to San Francisco for the mass rally being planned there for May 27.

Carter has violated his campaign pledge to slash military spending—we shall answer him peacefully but in the streets. As the original Manhattan Project (which was actually in Chicago!) involved a handful of scientists laying the basis for the first nuclear explosion, our Manhattan Project is not a secret. It is not being carried out by a handful of men and women; but is an open, massive effort by the American people to move the planet toward Zero Nuclear Weapons, Ending the Arms Race, Banning Nuclear Power, and Funding Human Needs.

On June 12 there will be a disciplined nonviolent civil disobedience project at the United States Mission to the UN. This action will protest the initiation and continued escalation of the nuclear arms race by the US government. The demonstration will present in a dramatic way the urgency we feel for disarmament and our impatience at the routine subversion by the US of meaningful disarmament efforts.

We encourage all who can to participate in both events.

"PROTEST U.S. AGRESSION AGAINST VIETNAM"

This was the head on leaflets distributed during a demonstration Feb. 11 at the State Department office in New York. Placards protested the ouster of Vietnamese Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi and the arrest of Truong Dinh Hung and Ronald Luis Humphrey on trumped-up charges of espionage. Sponsored by an ad hoc coalition, including WRL, the demo drew some 250 participants. *photo by George Cohen*

Expectations and Limits of the UN Special Session

by David McReynolds

Starting on May 22 and running through June 28, the United Nations will have a Special Session on Disarmament (referred to as the SSD). This will take place in New York City at the UN headquarters and is the *first* such conference in the history of the UN—and the reason for the May 27th mass rally in New York sponsored by the Mobilization for Survival.

A discussion of the "limits and potential" of the SSD requires background information on the

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United Nations and its evolution. The UN was founded in San Francisco even before World War II ended, transforming the wartime military alliance of the Allies into a world institution which, when peace came, would have the necessary machinery to deal with any new threat of war, to proceed in a serious way toward universal and general disarmament, and which—because the United States was involved from the beginning—had a chance of succeeding where the League of Nations had been doomed to failure by the refusal of the U.S. to join it. The five "Great Powers" that had permanent seats on the UN Security Council—and veto power—were the U.S., U.S.S.R., China, Great Britain, and France. It is very hard to realize that at the founding of the UN, the Soviet Union and China were our close allies. It is difficult for younger people to see the "political world" as it then was: Israel did not exist, India was part of the British Commonwealth, Indonesia was a Dutch colony, Indochina was a French colony, almost all of Africa was held by France, Great Britain, or Belgium.

It is hard also to remember the sweetness with which we looked upon the future. The U.S., already the new imperial power, did not yet consciously think of itself in those terms. It would be correct to say there was deep affection for America in most of the world—for we had come as liberators, not as conquerors. We extended generous foreign aid to help a shattered Europe rebuild. In my own view it is an error for a Left analysis to "project backward" in an effort to prove that all U.S. policy from 1945 on was the result of a sinister plot. A balanced reading of history might better suggest that while many truly sinister developments were taking place behind the scenes, both in the Soviet-occupied areas of Eastern Europe and, more particularly, in U.S. foreign planning, there was not a simple, cohesive "evil plot" on either side. (Two examples: the Soviet willingness to withdraw from Austria and permit its neutralization suggests they may have been willing to trade their East Zone of Germany for a unified *neutralized* Germany—the West never adequately probed the Soviets on this. And in the Far East, MacArthur's remarkable occupation of Japan was a progressive program run by a reactionary and at least laid the basis for some hope of democracy in Japan). We must allow for errors, miscalculations, and pure accident as having played a role in polarizing the world by 1947 between the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.

In any event by 1947 the Cold War was a reality and the UN ceased to be in any sense a universal body and became instead an agency of the West, which is to say of the U.S. We controlled the Latin American votes like a Chicago war heeler. We controlled those of Western Europe only somewhat more discreetly. Our margin of control was so decisive that the U.S. State Department simply ran a good deal of U.S. foreign policy directly through the UN—a pattern confirmed by the "UN Action" in Korea. However even quite early in the game the U.S., as if it had premonitions that it would not always control the UN, began to systematically subvert it with a series of regional military alliances (the Soviet dominated Warsaw Pact was only formed *after* the U.S. set up NATO). And various aid programs which could more logically have been channeled through the UN was set up as bilateral programs of U.S. aid to specific nations—and thus it was the U.S. which initiated the use of food and technical aid as *political weapons*.

By the early 1960's the United Nations had started to undergo a great change. The Chinese Revolution—and China's break with the Soviets—complicated the simple old "U.S. versus U.S.S.R." conflict. The industrial revival of Western Europe and Japan gave them greater independence of the U.S. The new nations coming into the UN tended to choose neutrality rather than to align themselves to one of the great powers. Under the leadership of India and Yugoslavia—and supported by the newly independent African States—a truly forceful "nonaligned" bloc began to emerge in the UN.

The admission of China to the United Nations marked the conclusive end of U.S. control of the UN. Where once only the Soviet Union had used its veto power in the Security Council, the U.S., increasingly isolated in the UN, now began to exercise or threaten to exercise its veto power. And there *is* some merit to the U.S. claim that the UN simply does not express the political realities of the world today. An example would be that England, now reduced to a minor power, continues to have security council status, while Japan, one of the new major powers, does not—nor does any African or Latin American nation have a permanent seat on the Security Council. A more serious problem is that while the "one nation, one vote" principle may *sound* democratic, it is extremely undemocratic. Nations as powerful as the U.S., China, and the Soviet

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WRL STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The War Resisters League affirms that war is a crime against humanity. We therefore are determined not to support any kind of war, international, or civil, and to strive for the removal of all the causes of war.

☐ I support this statement and wish to enroll as a member of the War Resisters League.

signature.....

address.....

city.....

state.....zip.....

Send to: War Resisters League, 339 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. 10012

ORGANIZING NOTES

By Grace Hedemann

WRL/WEST has begun organizing the Western Regional WRL Conference on August 25-27 in Nevada City, California. The National Committee voted last summer that WRL National Conferences would be held biannually with Regional Conferences held during the intervening years. Regional conferences should be a good way for WRL membership to get to know each other with shorter distances to travel to conferences and an encouragement to ongoing work with contacts made at these gatherings. The Eastern Region will hold its conference July 28-30 in Poughkeepsie, NY. The South and Midwest have yet to determine the date and place of their conferences.

There has been a very exciting victory for the UC Nuclear Weapons Lab Conversion Project (WRL/WEST is one of its members). The Project for a year has corresponded with UC Berkeley President David Saxon and other UC officials requesting a University representative to explain and defend in public debate UC's involvement in weapons research. The Project felt the University should be accountable to the public for its action and respond to its critics in an open forum. President Saxon has the power to appoint such a person. On November 6, 1977, six Project members were arrested after a 30 hour sit-in outside President Saxon's office. They were charged with trespassing and went to trial in January. The "U-Hall Six" (also known as the U-Haul Six) after seven days of trial and two hours of deliberation by the jury, were found not guilty!

A gathering of nonviolent women from the western United States is being planned under the auspices of the Feminism and Nonviolence Program of War Resisters League/WEST. We'd like the gathering (for women only(to be relevant for women who are just beginning to consider the connections between feminism and nonviolence (anti-militarism), as well as for nonviolent women who are already committed feminists. We hope that this gathering will enhance our sense of unity, without covering up the diversity that exists among us. The gathering will take place July 7-9, 1978 at Monte Toyon in Aptos, near Santa Cruz, CA.

WRL/SOUTHEAST organized an excellent tour for David McReynolds in November (report in the January/February WRL NEWS) and are currently planning a follow-up organizing tour in April. CHAPEL HILL WRL has been involved with a number of issues over the past few months: death penalty, Wilmington 10 and Charlotte 3 cases, disarmament/human needs teach-ins, nuclear power and an anti-rape campaign. CHAPEL HILL has initiated and participated with a number of local coalitions on these issues. From the feminist nonviolence retreat last summer, the WOVEN Collective grew. The collective has now developed a community based anti-rape project. WRL and the KUDZU Alliance co-sponsored a candle light vigil and "Lovejoy's Nuclear War" showing which received front page coverage in the CHAPEL HILL NEWSPAPER. The Shearon Harris Nuclear Power Plant—when completed the largest in the world—is the primary target of the anti-nuke forces in the Chapel Hill, Durham and Raleigh area.

TWIN CITIES WRL shares weekly luncheon meetings. They have sponsored a Gandhi commemoration on January 30, the date of his assassination. They will be sponsoring a Jim Douglass speaking engagement in the St. Paul/Minneapolis area. They will be building a campaign around the University divestment of stocks from American corporations investing in South Africa.

DETROIT WRL sponsored jointly with community organizations a "Teach In On Arms Control/Human Priorities" in February with 150 people attending. Many, many friends and members have become involved with local MfS groups this spring.

The new NEW YORK CITY LOCAL WRL CHAPTER, in conjunction with the Long Island Safe Energy Coalition, staged a two-day caravan against radioactive waste transport. The group travelled through Long Island and New York City and leafletted people along the proposed route for transportion of radioactive waste materials from Brookhaven National Laboratories.

Grace Hedemann is on WRL staff

DEATH ROW PRISONER WANTS TO CONTRIBUTE TO WRL

"I am on Death Row here in the state of Alabama and I am unable to send a contribution at this time," wrote Johnny Imani Harris recently. "But I will do my very best to send a token contribution in the future."

Incredible that a man facing execution on March 10 could take time out to think of donating to a peace organization! The entire WRL staff signed an appeal for stay of execution to the Alabama Supreme Court.

On March 6th Harris won a two month stay of execution.

30 YEARS

1978 marks 30 years since Jim Peck came on as editor of WRL NEWS and started working in the office. He worked as a volunteer, halftime (and halftime for CORE) from 1948 until 1965. He has been working fulltime for WRL since then.

Dealing with Conventional Arms Trade

by Ed Hedemann

Though nuclear weapons have the potential to erase life from the face of the earth and make this planet uninhabitable for thousands of centuries, conventional weapons are responsible for the deaths of some 40 million people since the end of World War II. According to Frank Barnaby of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, since September 1945 there was not one day in which the world was free of war. On an average day 12 wars were being fought. And there is no end in sight.

A lot has been written in peace movement publications about getting rid of nuclear weapons and shifting the money saved to meeting human needs. Unfortunately, that money isn't as significant as many may think since yearly expenditures on nuclear weapons represents about $3 billion out of the $120 billion U.S. Defense budget.

International Arms Sales

Between 1961 and 1977 the worldwide arms sales amounted to almost $130 billion. Accounting for 50% of those sales, the United States placed first in the "Merchant of Death Sweepstakes." The Soviet Union placed second with 30%.

This huge volume of sales is a relatively new phenomenon. Arms transfers from the U.S. used to be primarily in the form of grants (Military Assistance Program) which rose from $1 billion in 1967 to $4 billion in 1973, then subsequently dropped off. However, outright sales (Foreign Military Sales) have rapidly increased from $1 billion in 1967 to $10 billion in 1977.

Many reasons are cited justifying U.S. involvement in arms trade: it improves U.S. balance of payments; lowers the unit cost of weapons sold to the U.S. military; keeps employment levels up while the U.S. is not engaged in a war; provides political influence since these sophisticated weapons need maintenance, training, and parts; provides support for U.S. allies; helps establish a close relationship with military leaders in an effort to influence internal politics (e.g., Chile); aids in the return of U.S. currency used for oil payments (petrodollars) thereby forestalling an economic crisis resulting from a sudden unloading of petrodollars; manufacture aids in the improvement of the U.S. technological lead in weaponry; counter-insurgency weapons helps "favored" regimes to stay in power; influences the balance of power in many regions of the Third World.

The vast majority of world's arms sales goes to the oil-rich Middle East. Since the Indochina War, the principal U.S. arms customers have been Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. There is presently a $30 billion backlog in unfilled orders from the U.S. alone.

With all Carter's talk of human rights, many have breathed a sigh of relief that U.S. complicity in repression and torture is finally coming to an end. However, a recent study by Michael Klare (*Supplying Repression*, Field Foundation, New York, 1977), reveals that U.S. "corporations and governmental agencies are deeply involved in the supply of repressive technology and techniques to many of the world's most authoritarian regimes." Carter indicated on February 24, 1977, that aid to South Korea, the Philippines, and other strategically located countries would not be cut—no matter what their human rights performance—for reasons of national security.

Such repressive arms deliveries to right wing dictatorships have included tear gas, riot guns, counter-insurgency planes, armored cars, surveillance devices, electric "Shok-Batons," anti-personnel cluster-bombs. These arms and training in methods of "interrogation" have assisted groups such as the DINA of Chile, SAVAK of Iran, and the Border Patrol Police of Thailand.

Organized Opposition

There have been some efforts to publicize the U.S. role in arms trade, notably by organizations such as NARMIC, Institute for Policy Studies, Council on Economic Priorities, FCNL, the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, among others.

Not much work has been done on organizing protests to arms sales and conventional weaponry. Most of the attention by the anti-arms organizers has focused on nuclear weapons. However, recently the Coalition for a New Foreign and Military Policy has formed an arms

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Books Worth Reading

by David McReynolds

As the bootlegger pushes booze, so radicals push books—they are the building blocks of a serious movement, explaining our past to us, helping us understand ourselves, and opening doors into possible futures. WRL sells a great many books. But the literature committee, at a recent meeting, was alarmed that some excellent books simply "didn't move." For example, not a single book in the "Third World" category—with the exception of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee*—moves at all. Is it possible that pacifists who can make their way through the complexities of Gandhi's Autobiography are intimidated by a title such as "Capitalism and Underdevelopment in Latin America?" Do books on prison experience excite us more than books on how to transform a society so it will not contain prisons?

But we agreed one real problem was *our* failure to highlight the excitement of those books which, because they are not "pacifist classics," are not familiar to our members. From issues to issue of WRL NEWS members of the literature committee will try to share some of the excitement they feel about books on the list—regardless of whether they are "WRL best sellers" or recent additions.

I'm leading off with five books (one of which I have *not* read, with the reasons I look forward to buying it).

Prison Letters by Rosa Luxemburg. (32 pp. 30¢—we are waiting now for a new shipment from England). In my early twenties, when I was just becoming a Marxist, I was plowing through the radical literature that seemed essential—Lenin's *State and Revolution*, Martov's attacks on the Bolsheviks, etc. and I bought this thin volume by the great Polish Marxist revolutionary leader to see what political insights she had while imprisoned during World War I. What a wondrous delight and surprise—Rosa Luxemburg, the fiery revolutionist, wrote letters so completely nonpolitical, so extraordinarily gentle and tender, that if she had been a Quaker these would have been considered the writings of a mystic. They showed me—and after these decades they still show us—the human face of Marxism which was so long obscured by Stalin. If you fear those pacifists who insist on calling themselves Marxists—read this book. If you are a Marxist who does not understand that values transcend political lines, read this book.

Gandhi's Truth, Eric Erickson. 474 pp. $3.95. A psychiatrist dares to look at Gandhi—respectfully but not worshipfully—in the context of India's culture. If I owe this book nothing else, and I owe it a fair amount, it taught me finally the obvious meaning of Freud's use of the word "unconscious." and no, I won't tell you—that is what, among other things, this book can do much better than I.

America's Working Women: Edited by Rosalyn Baxandall, Linda Gordon, and Susan Reverby. 352 pp., $6.95. How much I look forward to reading this book which, by its very title, refutes the theory that the women's movement is borne on the wings of middle class women who have nothing better to do, and have maids to take care of their homes while they militate. I expect to struggle with this book, as I must struggle with my slow and reluctant understanding that I do not understand the women's movement. Can men admit they do not understand in order that the process can begin?

Cows, Pigs, Wars and Witches. Marvin Harris. 276 pp., $2.45. Here is a delight, an absolute treat of hard core anthropology so well written that it is—ah, joy for me, fan of the mystery novel—a complex set of mysteries with clues, and, eventually, solutions. Why do the Indians not eat their sacred cows? Harris makes an impressive case for the environmental common sense of this Indian foolishness. Why did wars (in his view) once serve a purpose and why is that purpose no longer served? What is the obvious fallacy to the theory that "wars keep population under control by periodically killing the surplus?" Why were there never any witches in the upper class in Europe? And more. Serious but fun.

Peacemeal. Greenwich Village Peace Center. 142 pp. $4. Here is a book which taught me both how to boil chicken and to roast chicken—easily and well. Please ignore my own recipe—the editors included it because they were too generous. And Igal Roodenko's "Survival Salad" sounds terrible—clearly, here too, the editors were simply too generous. But did you know Karl Bissinger once ran a restaurant? Or that Sybil Claiborne is one of the outstanding cooks in Greenwich Village. Or that Grace Paley (yes, *the* Grace Paley) confesses that during the Vietnam War, while trying to feed local resisters between work and meeting, she would call Mary Gandall and ask "How the hell did you say I should do that fish?" The movement does not live by bread alone, but even a peace army will revolt if not properly fed.

So—five "picks at random" from the literature list. From poetry to history, from biography to pacifist theory, WRL's literature department, run by Jim Peck, has it. And speaking, have you got the *incredible* photo history of the Continental Walk (you mean you were on the Walk and don't have a copy?) or...but you get the idea. If you lost your list, Jim will send you another. If you can't afford the books, get your library to order them.

David McReynolds is David McReynolds.

Clamshell Alliance Prepares New Actions

By Murray Rosenblith

The Clamshell Alliance will return to occupy the site of the proposed nuclear power plant at Seabrook, New Hampshire on Saturday, June 24. Previous occupations at the plant site on August 1 and August 22, 1976, and April 30, 1977, resulted in over 1600 arrests. The Clamshell occupations have been the largest nonviolent civil disobedience direct actions against nuclear power in the United States.

Plans for the June 24th event are still in formation. Affinity groups of between 10 and 20 people will once again be the basic unit of organization. Affinity group members will undergo nonviolent training together. The Alliance is currently holding a series of workshops to train people to conduct the training sessions during April and May. The Clamshell intends to have a corps of trainers available for any groups planning to participate in the June occupation.

The planning for the next occupation at Seabrook is only one part of the Clamshell Alliance's program to halt the construction of the nuclear plant. The Clamshell has been working in cooperation with the Granite State Alliance, a coalition of progressive political groups in New Hampshire. to oppose a utility rate hike. The 18% increase in electrical rates sought by the Public Service Company of New Hampshire is specifically to pay for construction costs of the Seabrook plant. The GSA hopes to convince large numbers of customers, including town governments and businesses to refuse to pay the increased cost.

The Clamshell is also sending representatives to speak at town meetings, civil clubs, school groups and labor organizations to present its position against nuclear power.

In addition to the direct action at the Seabrook site, the Clamshell is also planning to blockade the plant's reactor core containment vessel when the Public Service company attempts to install it on the site (see Joanne Sheehan's article in this issue).

There were a considerable number of WRL members involved in the previous occupations and activities of the Clamshell Alliance. If the Alliance (and the tactic of nonviolent direct action) are to succeed in stopping the Seabrook power plant and deal the nuclear industry a critical setback, it is vitally urgent that WRL members prepare to participate in the upcoming occupation and Clamshell events. If you are interested in becoming involved contact the WRL national office or the Clamshell Alliance, 62 Congress St., Portsmouth, NH 03801 (603)436-5414. (To receive the Clamshell Newsletter, send at least $3 to the Clamshell office and ask to be added to the mailing list.)

Murray Rosenblith is a member of the WRL executive committee and active in the Clamshell Alliance.

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by Joanne Sheehan

The Clamshell Alliance plans to blockade shipment of the Seabrook Reactor Pressure Vessel from reaching the Seabrook plant site. The reactor vessel is the seamless structure in which fuel will be placed and atomic reactions will occur. The vessel is 16 ft. in diameter and 44 ft. high, its walls are 8 inches thick and it weighs 427 tons.

Because of its immense size and weight, it will be transported from its present location at the Brayton Station Storage Area in Somerset, Massachusetts (near Fall River) by barge. It will be received at the 5 acre dock presently being constructed by the Public Service Company in Seabrook Harbor. The vessel may be moved any time between May of 1978, when the dock will be completed, and September of 1979 when the vessel is due to be set in place on the site.

The Clamshell's plans call for both land and sea blockades. Land blockades would take place at Somerset before the vessel is moved to the barge, and at Seabrook where the vessel must travel approximately 5 miles over land from the dock to the site. Sea blockades will take place in the Somerset-Fall River area (in Narraganset Bay), at the Cape Cod Canal, and at Seabrook Harbor.

Once this crucial component is in place, action to prevent construction of the Seabrook plant will be much more difficult. We are trying to *stop* the vessel from reaching its destination. Having plenty of well prepared participants and boats will be important. As in all Clamshell sponsored demonstrations which include civil disobedience, all participants will undergo training in nonviolence.

Because we may receive little notice before the vessel begins to move, it will be difficult to have people from around the country on alert. However, if you live in the New England area and wish to participate, or have a boat which can be used, please contact Patti Millberg, c/o Boston Clamshell, 2162 Masschusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02138.

Joanne Sheehan, a member of the WRL Executive Committee, is working with the Blockade Organizing Group. She is with the Community for Nonviolent Action in Voluntown, CT.

$$$ THANKS OR REMINDER $$$

To those of you who have responded to our February fund appeal. THANKS. To those of you who joined our pledge system. THANKS.

To those of you who put the fund appeal aside for a later time or who are still thinking about joining our pledge system, now is the time. THANKS in advance.

The Women's Counter Recruiting Campaign

The Women's Counter Recruiting Campaign is a nonviolent direct action campaign to stop the military recruiting of women. WCRC is opposed to the militarization of women *and* men, but has decided to put specific work emphasis on women.

The Campaign requests your support. *Ms. Magazine* in their November, 1977, January, 1978 and February, 1978 issues ran Army Reserve military recruiting ads. The WCRC has initiated a letter writing campaign to editors of *Ms.* requesting that they discontinue publication of these ads and make a public statement about their reason to do so.

The National Organization of Women and the American Civil Liberties Union support actively combat status for women in the military. They believe that equal rights should extend to becoming trained killers just like the men in the military (documentation available from WCRC for 30¢, plus 13¢ stamped return envelope). However, WRL has joined the National Organization of Women's boycott of national conferences in States which have not passed the ERA.

The Campaign encourages you to communicate using gentle persuasion about your concern about combat status being given to women, and recruiting ads being run in a so-called women's "liberated" magazine.

Address letters to: Ms. Magazine, 370 Lexington Avenue, New York, NY 10017; ACLU, 22 E. 40 Street, New York, NY 10016; and N.O.W./National, 425 13th Street NW, Suite 1001, Washington, DC, 20004.

For more information about The Women's Counter Recruiting Campaign write: WCRC, 944 Market Street #509, San Francisco, CA 94102 (415-391-5216).

UN Special Sessison continued from page 2

Union have only one vote each—no more than that of the smallest nations, some of which are so tiny that it is a serious drain on their gross national product even to maintain a Mission at the UN. (In all fairness, Luxembourg is only a city).

Thus we see that the United Nations, founded in a time of euphoric goodwill as a great war was coming to a close, was never able to establish itself as an institution with power greater than the nation-states that make it up. It served first as an extension of the American State Department and today serves as a world foum in which no major power has control. It was damaged from the beginning by the U.S. policy of setting up regional or bi-lateral military and economic arrangements. It is not a place where policy is made, or where the top men and women are sent. The heads of Missions are persons either on the way up or the way down, but never persons of actual power. Adlai Stevenson was sent to head the U.S. Mission when America needed a liberal front man for its invasion of the Dominican Republic and Indochina. Andrew Young is there because Carter wants to send a message to Africa that the U.S. is reversing policy.

So we should approach the SSD with few illusions. All basic decisions will be made in Peking, Moscow, Washington, etc., and not at the UN building. The Soviet Union is not happy with SSD—they had wanted a UN Conference on Disarmament, which would have had the power to conclude agreements, rather than the SSD, which has no power except to suggest the possible convening of another conference. The Chinese had opposed *any* conference or session on disarmament, and the U.S. had been almost as firmly opposed.

Though President Carter may speak at the Special Session, it is almost certain he will do no more than speak—that he will continue to violate his campaign pledges to cut the sale of arms abroad, and the Pentagon budget at home.

Why, then, does WRL care what happens at the UN? Once we understand that unlike Congress, which does have real power, the UN is a powerless world forum, why does it merit our attention? Precisely because it is *not* controlled by *any* single power, and is, therefore, fragile as it truly is, the closest thing we have to an independent world body expressing the hopes of the human race. It has no power beyond the power of symbols and gestures. But in a world which is locked into an absolutely suicidal arms race, symbols and gestures take on remarkable power.

With all of what little power of political analysis I may have, and with all the knowledge of the limits of the UN, I am deeply convinced—profoundly convinced—that the convening of the Special Session marks a victory for the nonaligned states, one achieved *against* the Great Powers, and that if we fail to see this, and fail to rally thousands of people in New York City on May 27th, we shall have failed a responsibility placed on us by more than thirty years of struggle to get the UN to do *anything* on the arms question.

If there is no major rally, no serious pressure in the streets, then *all* the Great Powers will know there is no real world concern with the arms race, and that public opinion need not be taken into account. But if we mobilize and rally, both on May 27 and again on June 12 in the civil disobedience action, we will be heard. I know from working in and around the UN this past several months that there are some who fear that any public pressure will "rock the boat"—and I also know, and strongly emphasize, that others, including Alva Myrdahl and Sean MacBride, who have spent years working within the established structures, have come to know that only our bodies massed in rallies in the streets of all great cities will move the governments.

David McReynolds is on WRL staff.

NUCLEAR AMERICA

A new organizing tool and wall poster is now available from the War Resisters League. This poster is a map of the United States pinpointing 400 sites which represent:

- •all nuclear weapons facilities (R & D, manufacturers, deployment and storage locations)
- •all nuclear power plants (commercial and research, operating as well as planned)
- •miscellaneous facilities such as uranium mining and milling, processing, reprocessing, waste disposal sites
- •areas likely to be bombed during a nuclear war
- •the reverse side contains a list of all these facilities, and a statement linking nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

The map measures 22" x 17" and is printed in 3 colors.

Send to:
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street
New York, NY 10012

☐Please send me one copy of "Nuclear America." Enclosed is 75¢.

☐Please send me.....copies (1-4 copies cost 75¢ each, 5-24 for 50¢ each, 25-49 for 45¢ each, 50-99 for 35¢ each, 100 and up for 25¢ each). Enclosed is $.....plus 15% for postage.

Name.....

Address.....

City.....

State.....Zip.....

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sales subcommittee. This subcommittee has brought together anti-militarists and Third World support groups to develop, in part, a legislative strategy which would curtail the arms trade.

A new task force of the Mobilization for Survival on "militarism and arms sales" began in January. The task force is developing an action program which it will submit to the MfS for adoption. This program may include a "Merchants of Death Day/Week" in the Fall to help focus organizing. It would also include a demonstrative presence at a monstrous "weapons bazaar" planned for Texas later this year.

In Britain, a very active Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) has chapters all over the country collecting and disseminating information on Britain's complicity in arms sales. Aside from strictly educational activities, these local groups leaflet, petition, picket, vigil, and demonstrate. Last November CAAT organized an international conference on the arms trade which was attended by 130 people from 17 countries.

Finally, the Institute for Policy Studies and the AFSC are sponsoring a conference on arms sales to be held in Washington, D.C., April 22-23. The first day will be informational and the second day will emphasize organizing.

It is hoped that this organizing will finally give proper recognition to conventional arms for the role they have played in the continuing death, torture, repression, and injustice throughout the world.

Ed Hedemann is on WRL staff.

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